

**Applicant:** Meggiolan  
**Application No.:** 10/341,349

## REMARKS

The Amendment amends claims 1, 8 and 9, and cancels claim 2. Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-15 are pending.

The Action withdrew allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 11 and rejected the pending claims over Deitrich and Baker; both directed to automobile hubs. Deitrich's Figure 4 shows radial 52, 80 spokes attached to a radial hub flange 44, 74, and distal (non-radial) spokes 54, 82 attached to a distal hub flange 46, 76. Deitrich describes this spoke pattern and flange arrangement as "critical." Col. 5, line 14.

Deitrich's equidistantly spaced spokes in Figure 4 are also not grouped, although the Action suggests such a grouping. Dietrich's spokes repeat a pattern every four spokes; such pattern repetition alone is not a "grouping." Had Dietrich wanted to show or describe groupings, the patent would have done so, especially since it acknowledges that the spoke pattern is "critical." Thus, Dietrich neither suggests nor teaches a grouped spoke pattern. Baker, the second automobile reference, merely shows equidistantly spacing spokes around a hub.

Neither Deitrich nor Baker teach or suggest what is now claimed. In all of the independent claims, the art does not teach or suggest the claimed feature that "each spoke group is separated from an adjacent spoke group by a distance around a circumference of the rim greater than a distance around the circumference of the

**Applicant:** Meggiolan  
**Application No.:** 10/341,349

rim between adjacent spokes of each spoke group." Deitrich's spokes, which are not grouped, are equidistantly spaced around the rim in Figure 4, which is different from what is claimed. Assuming *arguendo* that Dietrich's spokes are in groups of 4, the spoke "groups" are not separated by a distance greater than the distance between adjacent spokes in each group, is now as claimed. Thus, Dietrich does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

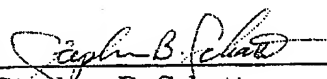
The advantage of the claimed spacing arrangement is that it is strong, lightweight, and easy to assemble. The cumbersome Dietrich design is neither lightweight, nor easy to assemble.

**Applicant:** Meggiolan  
**Application No.:** 10/341,349

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview, either over the telephone, or in person, would advance the prosecution of the application, the undersigned invites such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario Meggiolan

By   
Stephen B. Schott  
Registration No. 51,294  
(215) 568-6400

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.  
United Plaza, Suite 1600  
30 South 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

SBS/tab